

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 3452

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ

SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE - RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO

REF: STATE 229493

1. SUMMARY. I MADE DEMARCHES ON PURETO RECO BOTH TO FONMIN KEUTCHA AND MINISTER SENGAT KUO, PRESIDENT AHIDJO'S KEY FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAN AT PRESIDENCY. AS AUTHORIZED BY DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, I HELD BACK FROM IMPLYING THAT GURC SUPPORT OF ANY RESOLUTION SIMILAR TO LIMA STATEMENT IN UN FORUM WOULD ADDECT BILATERAL RELATIONS, IN ORDER NOT TO RISK COUNTERPRODUCTIVE REACTION ON MORE ACUTE AND IMPORTANT KOREAN ISSUE. ALTHOUGH BOTH INTERLOCUTORS PHRASED THEIR RESPONSES CAREFULLY, I GAINED IMPRESSION THAT IF ISSUE WERE TO COME TO A CRUNCH IN UN FORUM, STRONGER DEMARCHE ON OUR PART WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND POSSIBLY PRODUCTIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING CALL OCTOBER 14 ON MINISTER IN CHARGE OF MISSIONS AT PRESIDENCY FRANCOIS SENGAT KUO PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS KOREAN ISSUE (REPORTED SEPTTEL), I ALSO MADE DEMARCHE ON PUERTO RICO AND LEFT "FACT SHEET" CONTAINING BULK OF PARAS 1 AND 4 OF REFTTEL. I LIMITED TO ORAL PRESENTATION FIRST POINT OF PARA 4 (US SERIOUS CONCERN AND DISPLEASURE) AND, IN MENTIONING US WISH THAT CAMEROON WOULD NOT HAVE GONE ALONG WITH NAC  
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STATEMENT ON PUERTO RICO, I OMITTED FINAL POINT RE IMPLICA-

TIONS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR ANY SUCH RESOLUTION IN UN OR SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. INSTEAD, STARTING FROM HIS REPEATED USE OF TERM "NUANCED", I MENTIONED CONSENSUS PROCESS IN UNGA WHEREBY STATES EXPRESS RESERVATIONS ABOUT PORTIONS OF CONSENSUS POSITIONS THEY DISAGREE WITH, AND QUESTIONED WHETHER THAT PROCESS ALSO OBTAINED AT NON-ALIGNED MEETINGS.

3. SEGAT KUO MERELY SAID RESERVATION SYSTEM WAS FOLLOWED ALSO AT NAC, BUT DID NOT ELABORATE ON THIS ASPECT. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT CAMEROON HAD NOT, UP TO THIS POINT SEEN THE NEED TO TAKE ANY POSITION ON PUERTO RICAN SITUATION. US POSITION, HE SAID, SEEM JURIDICALLY SOLID, AND HE DID NOT SEE PUERTO RICO AS BEING CURRENT PROBLEM. I CONCURRED, SAYING THAT IN VIEW OF REAL AND ACUTE PROBLEMS BURDENING INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM AT PRESENT, OVERLOADING IT WITH FALSE ISSUES LIKE PUERTO RICO, COOKED UP BY CASTRO, WAS DISSERVICE TO CAUSE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION. I ALSO IDENTIFIED INDEPENDISTAS AS, AND EXPLAINED THEIR PUERTO RICAN UNPOPULARITY IN TERMS OF FACT THEY WERE, EARLY TERRORISTS WHO TRIED TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT TRUMAN AND SHOT UP HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, IN ORDER TO PLAY ON GURC'S WELL KNOWN OPPOSITION TO TERRORIST MOVEMENTS, BASED ON CAMEROONIAN EXPERIENCE OF 1960'S.

4. SENGAT KUO TYPICALLY AND WITH HIS USUAL SKILL AVOIDED CRITICIZING, EITHER EXPLICITLY OR IMPLICITLY, THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT; INDEED HE PHRASED GENERALLY POSITIVE GENERALITIES ABOUT IT, WHILE SUBTLY DISTANCING CAMEROON FROM NAC STATEMENT RE PUERTO RICO. BASING MYSELF ON PARA 5 OF REFTTEL, I USED DISCRETION IN NOT COMING DOWN TOO HARD ABOUT IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS OF WRONG FUTURE VOTE ON PUERTO RICO IN ORDER NOT TO PREJUDICE CHANCE OF IMPROVING GURC'S POSITION -- OR EVEN RISK ENCOURAGING DETERIORATION -- ON MORE LIVE ISSUE OF KOREA. SHOULD PUERTO RICAN ISSUE ARISE AS REAL DANGER IN A UN FORUM WHERE CAMEROON HAS A VOTE, I BELIEVE STRONGER DEMARCHE AT THAT TIME WOULD NOT ONLY BE APPROPRIATE, BUT ALSO POSSIBLY PRODUCTIVE IN RESTRAINING GURC FROM GOING THE WRONG WAY AND EVEN GAINING ITS SUPPORT.

5. I ALSO TOOK OCCASION OF MY INTRODUCTORY "COURTESY CALL"  
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OCTOBER 15 ON FONMIN JEAN KEUTCHA, WHO JUST BACK FROM LIMA AND NEW YORK, TO MAKE SIMILAR DEMARCHE ON PUERTO RICO (AND ALSO KOREA - SEPTTEL). KEUTCHA RESPONDED THAT HE ACCEPTED MY EXPRESSION OF USG DISPLEASURE AS "INFORMATION" BEING CONVEYED TO HIM, AND INQUIRED WHETHER THE WRITTEN PAPER -- BEFORE HE HAD ACTUALLY BEEN HANDED OR ACCEPTED IT -- WAS A PROTEST NOTE. I CLARIFIED THAT PAPER WAS "FACT SHEET" DESCRIBING REALITIES OF PUERTO RICAN SITUATION; IT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY REPEAT MY

ORAL EXPRESSION OF DISPLEASURE, AND WAS NOT A "PROTEST NOTE". HE THEN SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED IT, EVEN IF IT WERE FORMAL NOTE OF PROTEST, BUT HE CLEARLY SEEMED RELIEVED THAT IT WAS NOT.

6. KEUTCHA COMMENTED, INSOFAR AS CONSENSUS STATEMENTS WERE CONCERNED, THAT AT MEETINGS SUCH AS LIMA NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, THERE WERE OFTEN PROPOSALS AND COUNTERPROPOSALS. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR SEC OF STATE TO EXPRESS USG DISPLEASURE TO LIMA CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN, OR IN UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE, RATHER THAN TO ALL INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAD PARTICIPATED IN LIMA CONFERENCE. AFTER ALL, HE SAID, WE MIGHT BE PROTESTING TO A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD PRESENTED A COUNTERPROPOSAL TO STATEMENT ACUTALLY ADOPTED.

7. COMMENT: FROM AMUSED GLANCE KEUTCHA SHOT DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS AT MY FIRST MENTION OF PUERTO RICO, I INFERRED THAT THEY HAD EXPECTED ME TO RAISE SUBJECT. HIS SUGGESTION OF POSSIBILITY THAT US PROTESTING TO WRONG ADDRESS CAN BE INTERPRETED IN TWO WAYS: FIRST, THAT GURC ACTUALLY DID PRESENT COUNTERPROPOSAL AT LIMA BUT FELT BOUND TO ADHERE TO CONSENSUS AND IS NOW BEING DENOUNCED BY BOTH RADI-CAN NAC'S AND US. OR, SECOND, THAT GURC ACQUIESCED IN RES AT LIMA AND IS NOW TRYING TO WEASEL OUT OF CONSEQUENCES BY HINTING IT MAY HAVE SUBMITTED COUNTERPROPOSAL. I INCLINE TO FIRST INTERPRETATION, WHILE DCM LEANS TOWARD SECOND.

8. THIS COURTESY CALL ON KEUTCHA HAD GONE ON FOR FULL HOUR BY TIME FOREGOING POINT WAS REACHED. IT HAD INVOLVED DETAILED SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF TWO SUBJECTS (KOREA AND PUERTO RICO). IT WAS NOT CLEAR, AND DID NOT SEEM APPROPRIATE IN THE CONTEXT -- DESPITE EXCELLENT AMBIANCE -- TO PIN DOWN CLARIFICATION ON WHETHER HE WAS TRYING TO WARN US IN FRIENDLY WAY  
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THAT TOUGHG PROTEST COULD BE BADLY RECEIVED IN CAMEROON AND PERHAPS ELSEWHERE. (IF THE LATTER WERE THE INTENDED MESSAGE THIS WOULD BE A PARALLEL TO CAMEROONIAN REACTION TO USG REJOIN- DER OVER OAU'S PROTEST AGAINST ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S DAVIS' APPOINTMENT. SEVERAL CONTACTS TOLD US THEN IN A FRIENDLY WAY THAT THEY COULD UNDERSTAND A US PROTEST TO OAU THEY THOUGHT IT WAS A MISTAKE FOR US TO HAVE ALSO CONVEYED OUR DISPLEASURE DIRECTLY TO OAU MEMBER STATES AND THUS PUT INTO BILATERAL CHANNELS AN UNHAPPY MULTILATERAL AFFAIR). WE WILL ATTEMPT USE LESS FORMAL OCCASION TO OBTAIN FURTHER INTERPRETATION OF WHAT KEETCHA WAS TRYING TO CONVEY.  
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## Message Attributes

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